

Requirement being deemed final. As such, Claims 1-10, 13, 14, and 16-20 are now canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of the non-elected, now canceled claims in future divisional applications.

Claims 11 and 12 are amended, as indicated above, to further clarify the present invention. In particular, to recite the proper sequence identifiers for the present invention. Applicants believe no new matter is added by the foregoing amendments.

I. Objection to Claims 11 and 12

The Examiner objected to Claims 11 and 12 for the recitation of non-elected inventions. As amended, Claims 11 and 12 are directed to SEQ ID NO:2, the elected invention, and as such this objection is overcome. Withdrawal is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 11, 12, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 11, 12, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph (see, page 2 of Office Action). The basis for the rejection is the recitation of "17 contiguous amino acids". Applicants disagree with the Examiner's assertion that the present invention does not provide enablement for binding compositions which recognize 17 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2. Applicants have provided detailed descriptions of generation of binding compounds, e.g., antibodies against several types of antigens, including fragments or portions of the antigens (see, e.g., page 36-40).

However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants have amended Claim 11 to remove the above phrase. Claims 12 and 15, which depend directly or indirectly from Claim 11, also do not contain this phrase.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 11, 12, and 15, under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, is overcome. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

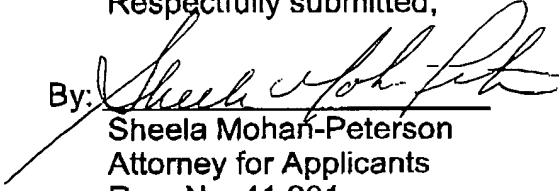
Conclusion

Applicants' current response is believed to be a complete reply to all the outstanding issues of the latest Office Action. Further, the present response is a bona fide effort to place the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and passage of the claims to allowance at the earliest possible convenience. Should the Examiner deem allowance inappropriate at this time, Applicants respectfully request an interview be granted with the undersigned to consider any issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**In the claims:**

Please cancel Claims 1-10, 13, 14, and 16-20, without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 11 and 12 as indicated below.

11. (Once Amended) A binding compound comprising an antibody binding site which specifically binds to [at least 17 contiguous amino acids from] a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 [or 5 or 7].

12. (Once Amended) The binding compound of Claim 11, wherein:

a) said antibody binding site is:

- 1) specifically immunoreactive with a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2 [or 5 or 7];
- 2) raised against a purified or recombinantly produced human DC-STAMP [or DSP-1 protein]; or
- 3) in a monoclonal antibody, Fab, or F(ab)₂; or

b) said binding compound is:

- 1) an antibody molecule;
- 2) a polyclonal antiserum;
- 3) detectably labeled;
- 4) sterile; or
- 5) in a buffered composition.